



INTERIM REPORT OF THE REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE

Presented to the City Council
By Lorraine Miller, Task Force Chair

December 1, 2020

Redistricting Task Force

Members

Place 1: Lorraine Miller (Chair)
Place 2: Salvador Espino
Place 3: Graham Norris
Place 4: Craig Allen
Place 5: Bert Williams
Place 6: Linda Kennedy
Place 7: Tony DeVito
Place 8: Tracy Scott
Place 9: Kent Bradshaw
Place 10: Bill Schur
Place 11: Teresa Ayala

Staff

City Manager's Office
City Secretary's Office
Law
Planning and Data Analytics
Information Technology Solutions
Communications and Public Engagement
Diversity and Inclusion

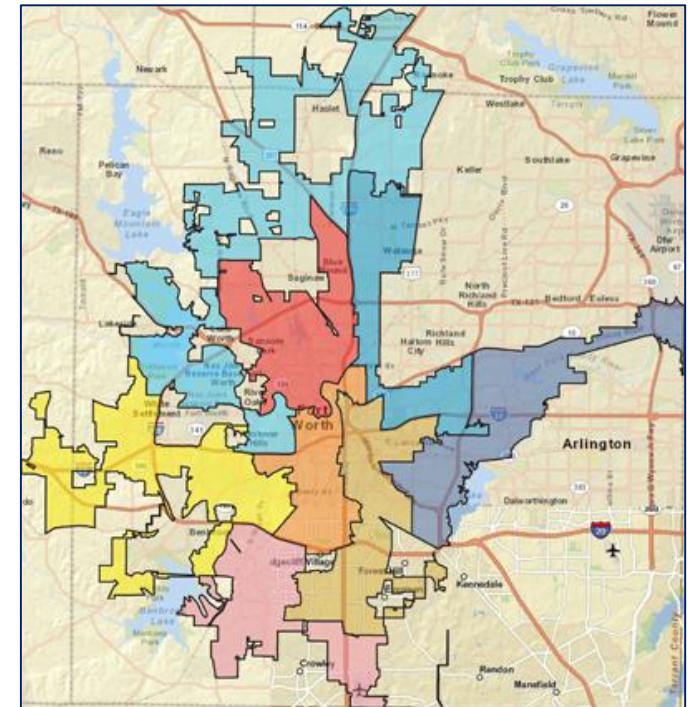


Resolution No. 5259-08-2020, Appointing a Redistricting Task Force

Adopted August 4, 2020

“The Redistricting Task Force is charged with evaluating the criteria and procedures by which the City Council has redrawn Council district boundaries in the past and, accordingly, **advising the City Council about redistricting criteria and procedures** that the City Council should use in the future.”

Note: The resolution contemplates that the **City Council**, rather than an independent redistricting commission, will redraw Council district boundaries.



Task Force Schedule, August – December 2020

Month	Activity
August	City Council adopts resolution appointing Redistricting Task Force.
September	Staff presents informational briefings . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Task force charge ○ Open Meetings Act training ○ Redistricting history and schedule ○ Legal basis for redistricting ○ Demonstration of redistricting software
October	Task force interviews representatives from Austin and San Antonio . Staff presents additional informational briefings . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Voting Rights Act ○ Local demographic trends
November	Staff provides task force with additional demographic data . Task force discusses preliminary findings . Task force discusses arrangements for Redistricting 101 seminar and public hearings .
December	Task force presents interim report to City Council.

Draft Redistricting Criteria

High Priority: Not in any order of priority	
1.	Approximately equal size : Population of largest district \leq 10 percent more than population of smallest district
2.	Compliance with U.S. Constitution, Voting Rights Act, Texas Constitution, and other applicable laws , with no packing of minority voters, no fragmentation of minority communities, and no retrogression in ability of minorities to participate in electoral process
3.	Create minority opportunity districts , in compliance with federal law, to further reflect growing diversity of City
4.	Contain communities of interest in single districts, with community of interest defined as “a local population with shared socio-economic characteristics and political institutions that would benefit from unified representation”
5.	Contiguous territory
Lower Priority: Not in any order of priority	
6.	Compact districts, with goal of Polsby-Popper ratio \geq 0.050
7.	Identifiable geographic boundaries
8.	Contain whole voting precincts
9.	Contain whole census blocks or block groups
10.	Do not consider place of residence of incumbents or potential candidates

Comments on Redistricting Procedures

- Continue to...
 - **Provide software training** for interested residents.
 - **Analyze redistricting plans** submitted by residents and brief City Council.
- Provide greater **transparency** in redistricting. Consider language from North Carolina state court panel in *Common Cause v. Lewis* (2019): “...require all map drawing to occur at public hearings, with any relevant computer screen visible to legislators and public observers.”



Task Force Schedule, January – March 2021

Month	Activity
January	<p><u>Monday, January 4, 6:00 p.m.</u>: Task force chair and staff present virtual Redistricting 101 seminar.</p> <p><u>January 11-21</u>: Task force conducts series of virtual public hearings. All hearings begin at 6:00 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monday, January 11 ○ Tuesday, January 19 – in Spanish only ○ Thursday, January 21
February	<p><u>Thursday, February 4, 3:00 p.m.</u>: Task force discusses comments from public meetings, agrees on final recommendations.</p>
March	<p><u>Tuesday, March 2, 3:00 p.m.</u>: Task force presents final report to City Council.</p> <p><u>Tuesday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.</u>: City Council adopts resolution accepting final report.</p>

Redistricting Schedule, May 2021 – May 2023

Month	Activity
May 2021	City conducts 2021 election .
End of July	Census Bureau releases block-level census data for state and local redistricting.
August	City Council and Redistricting Task Force members hold joint work session .
August to December (or later, subject to reprinting of voter registration cards or adjustment of printing schedule)	City Council conducts redistricting process in accordance with approved criteria and procedures.
December	Tarrant County Voter Registrar prints voter registration cards with information about new Council districts.
Mid-July 2022: 180 days before qualifying begins for May 2023 municipal election	Deadline for candidates to establish residency within Council districts that they wish to represent.
Mid-January to mid-February 2023	Candidates file for places on 2023 municipal election ballot.
May 2023	City conducts 2023 election .



Questions?

